

Appln No. 10/589,834
Amdt date February 4, 2009
Reply to Office action of October 8, 2008

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A disc autochanger comprising:
 a plurality of disc holding members ~~able~~ configured to hold a plurality of discs[[],];
 a splitting member configured to be inserted between two adjacent ~~in said~~
disc holding members for splitting said adjacent disc holding members[[],]; and
 an elevator mechanism for raising or lowering configured to raise or lower
said plurality of disc holding members to an insertion a position for insertion of said splitting
member therebetween and to lower for raising or lowering at least part a first portion of said disc
holding members positioned below said insertion position to enable insertion of a playback part
while keeping not moving a second portion of said disc holding members positioned above said
insertion position.
2. (Original) A disc autochanger as set forth in claim 1, further provided with a detector
for making said elevator mechanism shift in an elevation direction to move said disc holding
members and detecting at least one shift position for making that movement stop at a position
facing said splitting member, a storage unit for storing a number of a disk to be played back, and
a controller for controlling the drive of said splitting member and said elevator mechanism in
accordance with outputs of said storage unit and said detector.
3. (Original) A disc autochanger as set forth in claim 2, wherein said controller holds a
correspondence table between at least one shift position to be taken by each of said plurality of
discs and said disc numbers.

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4. (Original) A disc autochanger as set forth in claim 2, wherein said detector is comprised of a fixed base member and sensor units provided at said fixed base member and connected to said controller, and said sensor units detect said shift positions of said elevator mechanism.

5. (Original) A disc autochanger as set forth in claim 2, wherein said detector is comprised of a base member and sensor units provided at said base member and connected to said controller, said sensor units are arranged at shift positions corresponding to predetermined positions of said elevation direction at which said disc holding member should stop, and said base member can move to the shift positions corresponding to said disc holding members.

6. (Original) A disc autochanger as set forth in claim 2, wherein said storage unit is comprised of a nonvolatile memory storing the number of a disc to be played back.

7. (Original) A disc autochanger as set forth in claim 2, wherein said storage unit is comprised of a drive mechanism driven based on the output of said controller and a sensor detecting dynamic changes of said drive mechanism and calculates the number of the disc to be played back from the value of the output of said sensor.

8. (Original) A disc autochanger as set forth in any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein said disc autochanger records on the discs.

9. (Currently Amended) A disc autochanger ~~having~~ comprising:
a plurality of disc holding members ~~able~~ configured to hold a plurality of discs[[,]];
a table seat member for supporting said plurality of disc holding members[[,]];
an elevator mechanism ~~for raising or lowering~~ configured to raise or lower said table seat member[[,]]; and

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a splitting member configured to be inserted between two adjacent ~~at a predetermined position of said disc~~ holding members positioned by said elevator mechanism, said elevator mechanism further configured to lower ~~lowering~~ said table seat member after said splitting member is inserted into said disc holding members, while the splitting member keeps a portion of the plurality of disc holding members positioned above the splitting member from moving down.

10. (Currently Amended) A disc autochanger ~~having~~ comprising:
a plurality of disc holding members ~~able~~ configured to hold a plurality of discs[[,]];
a playback part; ~~able to be inserted into a separated space of said disc holding members~~;
a table seat member for supporting said plurality of disc holding members[[,]];
an elevator mechanism ~~for raising or lowering~~ configured to raise or lower said table seat member[[,]]; and

a splitting member configured to be inserted between two adjacent ~~at a predetermined position of said disc~~ holding members positioned by said elevator mechanism, said elevator mechanism further configured to lower ~~lowering~~ said table seat member after said splitting member is inserted into said disc holding members ~~so as to~~ form a separate space by separating said disc holding members into first disc holding members supported by said splitting member and second disc holding members supported by said table seat member ~~and, wherein~~ said playback part ~~playing~~ is configured to play back a disc in the formed separated space.

11. (Original) A disc autochanger as set forth in claim 9 or 10, having a controller provided with a position detector for detecting a position of said table seat member and controlling said elevator mechanism based on said position detector so as to move said table seat member to a position corresponding to a desired separation position of disc stockers.